

Implex-13

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An instrument system for preparing a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies to receive a repair device, the instrument system comprising:

at least one distractor including a tapered body section for distracting the vertebral bodies in a manner that restores natural lordosis of the lumbar and cervical spines, the tapered body section formed by:

an end wall;

a first pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall; and

a second pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15.(Previously Presented) A distractor for use in a system that prepares a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies to receive a repair device, the distractor comprising a tapered body section for distracting the vertebral bodies in a manner that restores natural lordosis of the lumbar and cervical spines, the tapered body section formed by:

an end wall;

a first pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall; and

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a second pair of opposing wall portions converging toward the end wall.

16.(Original) The distractor according to claim 15, wherein the distractor further includes a connector section opposite the body section, the connector section for coupling a handle to the distractor.

17.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 16, wherein the connector section includes a detent element.

18.(Cancelled)

19.(Cancelled)

20.(Cancelled)

21.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one distractor includes a longitudinal axis and at least one of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

22.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one distractor includes a longitudinal axis and each of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

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23.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one distractor further includes a connector section opposite the body section, the connector section for coupling a handle to the distractor.

24.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 23, wherein the connector section includes a detent element.

25.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 23, wherein the connector section includes a female coupling member.

26.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 25, wherein the female coupling member is formed by a T-shape slot.

27.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 26, wherein the T-shape slot defines inwardly facing locking flanges.

28.(Previously Presented) The instrument system according to claim 26, wherein the T-shape slot defines a surface, the surface including a bore for receiving a pilot pin formed at an end of the handle.

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29.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 16, wherein the connector section includes a female coupling member.

30.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 29, wherein the female coupling member is formed by a T-shape slot.

31.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 30, wherein the T-shape slot defines inwardly facing locking flanges.

32.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 31, wherein the T-shape slot defines a surface, the surface including a bore for receiving a pilot pin formed at an end of the handle.

33.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, further including a longitudinal axis, wherein at least one of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

34.(Previously Presented) The distractor according to claim 15, further including a longitudinal axis, wherein each of the first pair of wall portions includes a groove that extends generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.